

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2007

Each month I establish, with input from the Directors, the priority issues on which management and the staff focus. This report summarizes the work that was accomplished during the month as well as other items I feel will give the Council a better understanding of what the staff and I are doing to accomplish our performance objectives.

I. Improve the efficiency and accountability of management within the organization

- Continuous Improvement

Work continues on the four projects. The staff values statement will be finalized at the March All Staff meeting after review by each of the Departments. The Strategic Leadership Team is leading the effort on project chartering and performance measures. Both are expected to yield results by the end of the fiscal year.

- The Regional Council is scheduled to receive a presentation on the Comprehensive Annual Financial report from our external auditors, Vasquez & Co. An overview of the FY 2007-2008 Budget will be presented at a joint workshop of the policy committees and the Regional Council. There will be a joint meeting of the Audit Committee and the Personnel Committee on February 8, 2007 to receive a briefing on GASB 45 requirements for disclosing the cost of post retirement employee benefits. The Audit Committee will also be briefed on the status and the schedule for assessing the implementation of the "Best Practices Report of March 2000," and making any recommendations for policy changes and updates to continue improving our administrative practices.

II. Provide support to the Regional Council in providing direction and leadership to SCAG

- On January 4th I participated in the Pacesetters Public Affairs Talk Show, jointly interviewed with Supervisor Yvonne Burke. On January 20th I was a guest speaker on the live broadcast of "Government and Politics of Southern California" with Stan Hebert from the DHTV Broadband Network Studios of California State University, Dominguez Hills in Carson.
- During the month I have had several meetings with both public and private sector leaders regarding moving the port related freight issues forward. These have included the CEO's of the Commissions, the Southern California Leadership Council, Maersk, Port officials, local and state air quality agency directors, state and federal officials, and others. The focus has been on the institutional and funding issues surrounding the implementation of needed infrastructure and mitigation of impacts. The timing seems to be right for a leadership meeting of some of the key actors in the near future. There also appears to be a need for bridging pretty diverse points of view over the air quality issues surrounding port related freight activities. In my meeting with the air district we discussed our drafting some type of clean air freight strategy for 2015.
- I was selected to receive the National Public Service Award. The National Public Service Awards are presented jointly by The American Society for Public Administration and The National Academy of Public Administration to recognize outstanding practitioners who have made significant contributions to public administration. The award will be presented at the National Public Service Award Luncheon on March 25th.

III. SCAG Operations

- Personnel. Recruitments continue for many staff positions. Three interim appointments have been made to backfill behind Karen Tachiki who left SCAG on February 2, 2007. Sylvia Patsaouras will serve as interim Director of Government & Public Affairs and Joann Africa will serve as interim Director of Legal Services. A discussion about legal support will be concluded at the March Regional Council meeting and will guide the recruitment efforts for that position. The Director of Intergovernmental Relations will also be recruited in the near future. Jacob Lieb will serve as the interim Manager of Environmental Planning while Sylvia is the interim Director.

The Manager of Member Relations recruitment is completed and the successful candidate is Bev Perry. She started on January 22nd. The Manager of Contracts recruitment is completed and the successful candidate is Leyton Morgan who started on January 29th.

- Training and Development/Professional Pathways. The above interim assignments provided developmental opportunities for three existing SCAG staff. This supports the Professional Pathways program by providing rotational and developmental assignments. The Leadership/Supervisory/Management training series resumed in January and continues in February with classes on Change Management and Conflict Resolution. Speech communication and SAP training are ongoing. The wellness theme for February is "Love Your Heart."

IV. Implement Adopted Regional Plans

- Aviation. On January 11th I represented SCAG at the second meeting of the reactivated Southern California Regional Airport Authority (SCRAA) in place of Aviation Task Force Chair Alan Wapner who could not attend the meeting. At that meeting, the SCRAA board elected Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl as chair and San Bernardino Supervisor Gary Ovitt as vice-chair. SCAG had previously submitted comments to the SCAG, adopted by the Regional Council on January 4th, on the SCRAA's mission, powers and membership. Proposals to revise the agency's joint powers agreement were tabled until the next meeting of the SCRAA board in April. I am closely coordinating with Chairman Rosendahl in helping him develop a new vision for the SCRAA.
- Goods Movement. At the January 12th Regional CEO's meeting, the executive directors agreed to continue Lindell L. Marsh's contract in support for Federal, State, and Local Collaboration on Goods Movement. This is a joint program aimed at executing a Southern California National Freight Gateway MOU with all the key federal, state, and local agencies. SCAG was requested to administer the contract on behalf of the county transportation commissions. SCAG, on behalf of its funding partners, seeks to continue Lindell L. Marsh's efforts on a sole source basis with additional funding of approximately \$30,000.

The Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan is moving forward. The next meeting of the Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan Stakeholders Advisory Group will present highlights of the Draft Action Plan and seek input. A second survey tool has been launched to capture stakeholder preferences and opinions about various goods movement strategies and solutions. Model runs for the Multi-County Goods Movement Action Plan began last week, with seven of the 12 bundles expected to be completed shortly. We have participated in L.A.M.T.A. and OCTA workshops on freight.

V. Develop Additional Planning Efforts

- Regional Comprehensive Plan. The policy committees are nearing completion of the review of proposed performance outcomes for each chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). Staffs and the RCP Task Force will engage an intensive public involvement campaign leading to the completion of a Draft RCP in the summer. A special workshop on agricultural issues for the Open Space Chapter will be held in Riverside in February. Other events are pending scheduling and will be posted shortly on the program website at www.scag.ca.gov/rcp.
- Air Quality/Conformity. I met with Executive Officers of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) along with key staff to continue discussions of policy issues regarding the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the South Coast Air Basin. Discussion items included potential conformity budget issues, the AQMD's suggested new development control measure, and PM2.5 attainment issues. One important item to note is that AQMD recently invoked the Conflict Resolution process established between AQMD, CARB, and SCAG to address some of these issues. The AQMD is scheduled to release the Final Draft AQMP by mid-February.
- Water and Integrated Regional Planning. Staff met with Joe Grindstaff, Director of the California Bay-Delta Program, to emphasize the importance of linking state bond funding to integrated regional strategies, including the two water bonds (Prop 1E and Prop 84). Emphasis was given to the importance of building comprehensive plans within regions/watersheds so that state funding agencies achieve both leverage of other significant resources (federal, local and private) and success with regional efforts that are sustainable in the long-term. This level of integration requires close coordination among state agencies (Resources, Business, Transportation and Housing, Food and Agriculture, Caltrans and Cal/EPA) in order to accommodate differing regional challenges such as growth, flood protection, transportation, water quality and supply, air quality, etc. Importantly, this governmental coordination is needed to encourage regional strategies that fully engage local governments, water and sanitation agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, councils of governments, environmental and conservation advocates and other essential participants.

As new guidelines for the distribution of state bond funds are prepared for legislative consideration/action, SCAG, along with other statewide regional interests, will work to have these guidelines promote this more extensive regional integration and governance roles for councils of government.

- RHNA. SCAG reached a major milestone on Thursday, January 18th by releasing the draft RHNA allocation. We would like to thank all local governments that participated in the Integrated Growth Forecast process, planning initiatives, AB 2158 survey, Public Hearing and workshop process, especially the subregions who have worked to collectively gather and reconcile local input from their areas during the last couple of months. Formal letters from SCAG will be mailed to acknowledge receipt of local input and explain how it was used in collectively reviewing AB 2158 survey information and developing the final draft allocation plan.

The draft Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA) Allocation for all jurisdictions of the SCAG region is now available for review online on the RHNA webpage (<http://scag.ca.gov/Housing/rhna.htm>). Also included with the draft allocation is the existing needs statement: [http://scag.ca.gov/Housing/pdfs/rhna/RHNA_011807\(5\).pdf](http://scag.ca.gov/Housing/pdfs/rhna/RHNA_011807(5).pdf). The draft RHNA allocation will be presented at the February 1 CEHD and Regional Council meetings for action, at the SCAG offices (818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017) in meetings beginning at 9:30 am. The schedule calls for approval on February 1st, so that the appeals process can begin on February 15th.

- Compass Partnership. The Compass Partnership held its quarterly meeting on January 24th , focused on high-level presentations and a lively discourse of public/private financing for infrastructure projects. Specifically, presentations were made on Light Rail infrastructure, with the Expo Line project as an example of the potential for value capture financing, and High-Speed Regional Transportation and its accompanying strategies for public/private financing. The committee expressed interest in pursuing these discussions at subsequent meetings, and may include a representative from the finance banking industry. In other business, the Partnership elected a new Chair: Supervisor Jeff Stone, Riverside County, and a new Vice-Chair: Greg McWilliams, Lennar Homes.
- Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA). Voter approval of Proposition 1B in November 2006 provided \$4.5 billion statewide for highway improvements under the CMIA program. Project nominations for the CMIA were due to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on January 16, 2007. CTC staff plan to release a staff recommendation on February 20, and the CTC will take action on part or all of the CMIA program on February 28. Statewide, the requests for CMIA funding totaled \$11.3 billion. In the SCAG region, the requests for CMIA funding totaled \$3.9 billion. SCAG has compiled the region's project nominations from the county transportation commissions and IVAG and is currently conducting a performance assessment, including a benefit-cost assessment, for each project.

VI. Data & Planning Methods

- Initiatives to Provide Parcel Access for Member Agencies. The Data and Monitoring Division has taken a two-prong approach to provide parcel data to our member agencies and other regional stakeholders. Access to parcel data has been consistently ranked as a top priority from the Data Needs Survey. SCAG has entered into a web based subscription service to provide access to parcel data and attributes, aerial imagery and street centerline data. This web-based system provides users the capability of performing online queries, analysis and printing of maps.

Secondly, staff has been conducting meetings with County Assessors to develop a consortium designed to provide a more long-term solution for parcel data access. This data repository will permit SCAG, member jurisdictions, SCAG consultants and other regional stakeholders to access and more importantly take physical possession of the data files. By providing this option, members will have additional functionality that is not available through the web based subscription service. This initial data consortium will then be expanded to facilitate data and cost sharing for other data and information.

- Status of the New Model. Calibration/validation of the new Regional Travel Demand Model has been completed. The new Model satisfies Federal guidance regarding modeling standards and will be used for the upcoming RTP07 analysis. The model validation will be presented at the January 24th Modeling Task Force.

VII. Legislative and Communication Programs

Our RHNA pilot program measure, Senate Bill 12, sponsored by Senator Alan Lowenthal, passed the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee on Tuesday, January 23rd by vote of 5-0 with a few amendments. One which provides flexibility by adding a "Revision" process during the appeals period. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Senator Lowenthal and I provided testimony for the bill. The bill will now go to the senate floor for vote scheduled for today and passage before moving to the Assembly. Paul Bauer anticipates that the Bill will secure much support in the Assembly and should be passed by the Legislature by April. On January 23rd I met with Assembly Member Lori Saldana,

Chair of the Assembly Housing Committee on the bill. The bill that would have provided for the tribal governments in the SCAG region to join the SCAG General Assembly, Assembly Bill 169, sponsored by Assembly Member Lloyd Levine has been introduced and will be sent to Committee following 30 days. The text of the legislation is currently identical to the last version of Assembly Bill 2762 of last session authored by Assembly Member Lloyd Levine that has passed out of the Legislature with an overwhelming majority but vetoed by the Governor. We will be working with the Assembly Member and the Governor's office so that next time the Governor will be willing to sign.

As will be discussed at the Regional Council, we are coordinating with the transportation commissions in the SCAG region in preparation for the Consensus Trip.